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RENEGOTIATE CAFTA

Mr. Speaker, what is so ironic about that is that we are in the same situation today. Our Nation is in so much debt, the deficit is about \$417 billion, \$7 trillion in debt itself; the average citizen of America owes about \$26,000 if they were going to pay off the debt of this Nation. How can we continue to send jobs overseas? Already, China has 1.5 million jobs since 1989. NAFTA itself, since we joined in 1993, in North Carolina alone, we have lost 200,000 manufacturing jobs; the United States has lost over 2.5 million manufacturing jobs.

Let me tell my colleagues what is so ironic. So many times when we have these debates, they say, well, if you create a better opportunity down in Guatemala, or whatever country it might be, then they are going to stay home. Let me tell my colleagues how ironic and ridiculous that is. The number of aliens has grown from 1.3 million people in 1992; that was the one year before NAFTA. Since NAFTA, 5.9 million illegal aliens have come across the border, and that is just for the year 2004. That is a 350 percent increase. It does not work. It only works if you are going to increase the livelihood of those people in those countries. It did not happen in Mexico, and it is not going to happen in these five countries in Central America.

Let me talk a little bit about CAFTA. CAFTA is the cousin of NAFTA. Eighty-five percent of the language in CAFTA is identical to the language in NAFTA; and, therefore, it is not going to do what needs to be done to help the American people and the American workers.

Let me talk about TPA, Trade Promotion Authority, which became the law of the land in August of 2002. My State of North Carolina, since that happened, 52,000 manufacturing jobs lost, and over 600,000 manufacturing jobs in the United States of America. CAFTA will not do what is being proposed by those who say we should pass CAFTA.

CAFTA is also going to be a way to allow the Chinese to back-door their goods to these five Central American countries, have them manufacture the product or put the product together, and then sell these duty-free over into America.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to say that I hope that we as a Congress will not pass CAFTA as it is drawn. If they want to go back to the table and redraw this legislation so that it is good for America and then good for these other countries, then we will look at it again. But as it is now, it is not good for the American government, it is not good for the American people, and I stand with my Republican friends, I stand with my Democratic friends, and I hope and believe that we will defeat CAFTA. It needs to be defeated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year, this Congress was promised a vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2004. December 31 came and went. Then, at a White House news conference, the President called on Congress to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement by Memorial Day. May 31 came and went. In June, Congress was again promised a vote, which was supposed to have been before July 4. Independence Day came and went.

Why, Mr. Speaker? Because dozens of Republicans and Democrats, including my friends who are joining us tonight, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), earlier the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and others, because of the strong opposition by both parties, from small farmers and ranchers to organized labor, from small manufacturers to environmentalists, from religious leaders, from Catholic bishops in Central America and the Dominican Republic, to Lutheran and Presbyterian and Jewish and Episcopal leaders in our country, all of us speak with one strong, united voice: renegotiate the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Those of us opposed to this CAFTA do want a trade agreement with Central America; but we want a trade agreement, as the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) says, that benefits our whole Nation, not just a few; not one crafted, not a trade agreement crafted, negotiated by a select few for a select few.

As the President travels the Nation trying to sell this CAFTA to the American public, he is hearing firsthand from U.S. workers, from small business owners and family farmers and family ranchers and religious leaders that they do not want this CAFTA, either. Their message, as is the message coming from us in this body in both parties, is loud and clear: renegotiate this Central American Free Trade Agreement.

In response to the President's trip this past Friday to North Carolina, a newspaper headline read: "Bush Sells Trade Pact in Hostile Territory." A Huntsville Times Alabama editorial on Sunday reads: "Say No to the Central American Free Trade Agreement." A Wall Street Journal headline, a newspaper traditionally very supportive of trade agreements, a Wall Street Journal headline yesterday read: "Cafta is No Cure-All For Central America."

This CAFTA represents more than a decade of failed trade policies. Just look what has happened with our trade policies just since the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and I in 1992 came to this Congress. In 1992 we

had a trade deficit in this country of \$38 billion. That means we sold \$38 billion less, exported, than we imported. In 2004, last year, that trade deficit was \$618 billion. It went from \$38 billion to \$618 billion in just a dozen years. How do we argue that our trade policy is working when our trade deficit has gone from \$38 billion to \$618 billion, and all of the lost manufacturing jobs in North Carolina and Idaho and California and Illinois and all over this country, including my State of Ohio? How do you argue that our trade policy is working?

CAFTA, Mr. Speaker, has languished in Congress for more than a year. Normally, trade agreements are voted on within 60 days. It passed the Senate by the narrowest margin ever of any trade agreement in that body. That is because we know this agreement is a continuation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, a dysfunctional cousin of NAFTA, a trade agreement which failed to live up to its lofty promises.

It is the same old story. Every time there is a trade agreement, whether it is Bill Clinton or whether it is George Bush, they tell us three things: they say more jobs for Americans, they say more manufactured products exported from the U.S. overseas, and they say that it will mean better wages for workers and a higher standard of living for people in the developing world. With every trade agreement, these promises fall flat.

Benjamin Franklin said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over and expecting a different outcome. That is what has happened with our trade agreements. This CAFTA will not enable Central American workers to buy cars made in Toledo, Ohio or software developed in Seattle or textiles and apparel from North Carolina or prime beef from Nebraska. This CAFTA is about U.S. companies moving plants to Honduras, outsourcing jobs to Guatemala, exploiting cheap labor in El Salvador.

I will make one prediction, Mr. Speaker. If CAFTA comes up next week, they will call it up in the middle of the night, they will hold the rollcall open for several hours, they will twist arms to try to get this agreement passed. Instead, we should throw out this failed agreement, go back to the drawing board, renegotiate a CAFTA that lifts workers up, that makes sense for workers in all seven CAFTA countries, including our own.

When the world's poorest people, Mr. Speaker, can buy American products and not just make them, then we will know that our trade policies are finally working.

CAFTA PUTS U.S. SOVEREIGNTY AND CONSTITUTION UNDER ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.